

Literacy Tips Week # 7, Term 1 2006

Processing Knowledge – Character, object and event sets

These tools help students to write descriptions of characters, objects and events.

A character set is composed of concentric rings (or closed curves in the shape of the object desired), which contains words, phrases and / or analogies. The outer ring usually contains focus or summary sentences. These should be based on the best words, phrases and /or analogies used in the other rings. Each ring can contain words or a different part of speech, eg. One ring might contain nouns, another verbs, another adjectives and so on.

4. Ask the student to begin by either writing the name of the thing to be described, or drawing the character, object or event, in the middle of the set.
5. Ask the students to write in each consecutive ring as directed, e.g. related words, phrases or ideas.
6. Ask the students to select up to three of these key words / phrases / ideas and to use them in a focus or summary sentence.

From: *Top Tools for Literacy and Learning* by David Whitehead (Longman, 2001)

Literacy Tips Week # 6, Term 1 2006

Gathering Information – Acrostic

This tool helps students recall and remember what they already know about a topic.

4. Ask the students to identify a word often associated with the study topic and write it vertically down the page (see below)
5. Ask the students to write one key topic word beginning with each letter in the vertically written word.
6. Finally, ask the students to define their key topic words in a sentence.

From: *Top Tools for Literacy and Learning* by David Whitehead (Longman, 2001)
